It's not for the Jolly Green Giant.

Big Chair of Thomasville

Reprint from TRANSGAS, May-June 1973

The plaque on the base of the Thomasville chair avoids using the words "big chair", since the chair has lost both its "world's largest chair" and "world's largest Duncan Phyfe reproduction" titles.

A concrete chair might not be very comfortable, but the one in Thomasville, N.C., attracts many sitters, some of them famous.

The chair, situated eight miles northeast of Transco's Lexington, N.C., Compressor Staion 155, is 18 feet high and sits atop a 12-foot-high base.

Although the chair is not the biggest in the world, it is probably the most famous, and it has the distinction of being stood upon by former President Lyndon B. Johnson when he was on a campaign tour in 1960.

The chair currently situated in the town square of Thomasville was preceded by another big chair erected in 1922. The original chair was 13 feet, 6 inches high and had a seat 5 feet, 6 inches wide. It was built as a tribute to the chief industry of Thomasville, chair manufacturing. Enough lumber to build 100 ordinary chairs was used for the first chair. It was built by three men, who worked on it ten hours a day for a week.

The original chair lost its "world's largest" title in 1934 when a Florida man had a 22-foot-high chair built to advertise his furniture store. But the Thomasville chair continued to be displayed around the country and was often a site for picture-taking and pranks.

Students at a local college once moved the chair to the stage of the college assembly hall for the use of the college president, and local high school students once gathered at the chair to protest when their classes were not dismissed to celebrate Armistice Day it. 1927. (The students were expelled for a week for their activities!)

In the mid-1930's, the first chair was scrapped because exposure to the weather had rotted the wood and made it an eyesore. A replacement chair was designed, but it was 1948 before a restoration movement generated enough interest to build it.

A steel skeleton built on four posts of concrete was covered with wire mesh, and a cement and granitedust coating was applied to the mesh skeleton—a spoonful at a time! The coating process, done by one man, required six months for completion. The spaces remaining were filled with cement to form arms and legs of solid concrete.

Painted to resemble a wooden chair with a striped cushion, the chair was mounted on a 12-foot limestone base in the same town square as the original chair. The chair is a reproduction of a chair designed by Duncan Phyfe that is on display in a Washington, D. C., museum. It was dedicated January 9, 1951, and measures 30 feet from the ground to the top of the chair back. Among the items buried in the cornerstone of the base were a train ticket to High Point, N. C., a seed catalogue, and a safety razor.

For a while Thomasville residents could boast of having the largest Duncan Phyfe reproduction, but even that changed when a 19-foot, 2-inch reproduction was erected in Washington, D. C., in 1958.

The new chair in Thomasville is a popular site for picture-taking, and the Thomasville Fire Department often gets more calls for its ladders to help people get on the chair than it does to fight fires. The fire department may lose that job soon—if plans to build an elevator for the chair are approved.

Meanwhile, people continue to climb atop the chair and Thomasville residents proudly call their town "Chair City."

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District III, VEHC, Well Represented At Conference At Blacksburg

District III, Virginia Extension Homemaker's Council, was well represented at the Family Resources Conference held in Blacksburg at VPI & SU from July 17th through July 19th. The Conference was held at the Donaldson Brown Continuing Education Center on the VPI & SU Campus.

There were approximately 485 in attendance from over the state of Virginia and approximately 27 attended from District III.

District III is made up of the counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Campbell, Charlotte, Halifax, Nelson, Pittsylvania Prince Edward, and the cities of Lynchburg and Danville.

Several awards were given to this District in the Programs of Work, VEHC. There are seven Programs of Work for VEHC members. First and Second place awards were given for outstanding achievement in each of the Programs of Work which include Citizenship, Cultural Arts, Family Life, Health, International, Public Information and Safety.

Amherst County won three first place awards out of the seven. They were awarded the Citizenship Program of Work Award, the Public Information Program of Work Award; and the Health Program of Work Award. These awards were for outstanding achievement in each of the programs. Mrs. Helen Feagans, Extension Agent for Amherst County, Mrs. M. H. Fauber, prsent County Chairman, Mrs. Frank Burleigh, past County Chairman, and Mrs. J. W. Bruner, past President, District III and now very active in Amherst County work were all instrumental in leading Amherst County to such an outstanding year in VEHC.

Mrs. F. D. Giles, Jr., Campbell County had the winning entry in the state Cultural Arts Program. A picture of her entry appeared in the Sunday edition of the Lynchburg NEWS, July 22nd.

The MAUDE WALLACE SCHOLARSHIP went to Mrs. Olin (Beverly Durrett) Phillips, a Virginia Tech student. Established in 1966, the Scholarship is funded by the royalities of the Cookbook fund and was named in honor of the late Maude E. Wallace, an outstanding betterment for rural living leaders, the award is given annually. Since 1946, $15,000 in royalties have been received. In 1972, 7,182 cookbooks were sold with $1,551.09 in funds for three of the scholarships. Other scholarships include the MRS. GUY ROOP SCHOLARSHIP, which this year had joint recipients. This $500 scholarship was divided between two nursing students, Mrs. Billy Joe Golding of Salem and Mrs. Katheryn J. Broadwater of Chesapeake. This scholarship is named in honor of Mrs. Guy Roop, a native of Montgomery County, who was first President of National Home Demonstration Club Council and a former president of the Virginia Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs. It is given to encourage work in the field of nursing and further education.

The first award was given to Mrs. Dorothy Graham Hollandsworth of Christiansburg at the annual meeting in 1972.

Each person attending the Conference had the privilege of attending three conferences out of seven made available. The topics were as follows: Psychology of Living, Community Organization for Changing Culture, Food-Fact or Fancy? Is it Forbidden? You Decide, Personal and Family Finances, Preventive Medicine, Environment and the Pollutions, and Perspective in Understanding the Aging.

Dr. Lebaron Moseley, Chief Vocational Counseling Service, Veterans Administration Hospital, Salem, Virginia, spoke at the banquet on Wednesday evening, using the topic "Essentials to Healthful Living". There were several groups in attendance at this banquet, as well as the rest of the Conference. Groups attending were Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, American Cancer Society, Virginia Farm Bureau Women's Committee, State Garden Clubs and District Home Demonstration Clubs.

The Conference was very beneficial to all who attended and this is something that is growing in numbers each year and looking forward to an even better opportunity for information and inspiration next year.

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FILING DEADLINE FOR EMPLOYMENT TAXES APPROACHING, IRS SAYS

RICHMOND - Although the 1972 income tax season has ended for individuals, an important deadline is approaching for employers, James F. District Director of Revenue for Virginia, today.

July 31, 1973, is the for employers to report both Social Security held income taxes second quarter of 19 ever, they have until 10, 1973, to file their they have deposited quarterly tax liability in a Federal Reserve authorized commercial

Employers should pre-addressed Form 94 them by the IRS to re taxes.

For more informa IRS Publication 15, " - Employer's Tax Gui available free by wri IRS district office.

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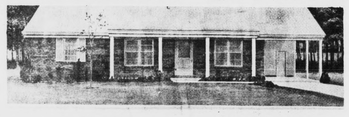

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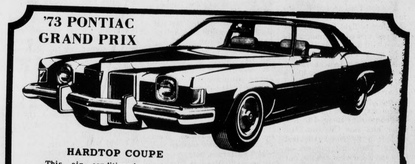

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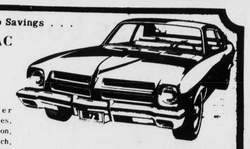

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